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Message Text

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15
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 /080 W
---------- 067413
R 170907Z JUN 75
FM AMCONSUL LUANDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3702
INFO CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0790

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI AO
SUBJECT: MILITARY NOTES

CINCLANT AND CINCEUR FOR POLADS

1. ANTI-TANK MISSILES: WE HAVE REPORTS FROM THE PORTUGUESE ARMY THAT MPLA UTILIZED SOVIET WIRE-GUIDED ANTI-TANK MISSILES DURING RECENT FIGHTING NEAR CAIXITO. THE PORTUGUESE SAY THEY HAVE RECOVERED THE LAUNCHERS AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY THE MISSILE. APPARENTLY MPLA HAS A SUPPLY OF THESE MISSILES AND SOME OF THEIR LOCAL SYMPATHIZERS ARE BRAGGING ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THEY NEXT USE THEM IN LUANDA AGAINST FNLA BUILDINGS.

2. FNLA LOSES ANOTHER BASE: ON JUNE 13 FNLA PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE BEMOANING THEIR RECENT MILITARY SETBACK AND ASCRIBING THE LOSSES TO THE "SURPRISE" USE OF MISSILES AND ARMORED CARS BY MPLA. FNLA APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN FORCED OUT OF ITS LARGE MILITARY BASE AT QUIFONGONDO, 20 KM NORTH OF LUANDA AND CACUACO, A SMALL TOWN 15 KM NORTH OF
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LUANDA. BOTH ARE ON FNLA'S ONLY SUPPLY ROUTE INTO THE CAPITAL

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AND THEIR OCCUPATION BY MPLA MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT
AND UNLIKELY THAT FNLA CAN REOPEN THE ROAD FROM CAIXITO INTO
LUANDA.

3. MILITARY CONTROL: THE PORTUGUESE ARMY HAS DEFINITELY LOST
ANY PRETENSE OF EXERTING EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER MUCH OF THE
INTERIOR OF ANGOLA. IT IS NOW ONE OF FOUR CONTESTING MILITARY
FORCES. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE AREAS RECENTLY SWEPT
BY MPLA AND FNLA IN THE NORTH. A PORTUGUESE MILITARY RESUPPLY
CONVOY WAS TURNED BACK AT CAIXITO BY AN MPLA ROADBLOCK ON
JUNE 13 AND ANOTHER CONVOY DEPARTED JUNE 13 FOR HENRIQUE DE
CARVALHO UNDER ORDERS TO BREAK THROUGH AT ANY COST AND WITH THE
ASSURANCE OF AIR SUPPORT IF NEEDED. MPLA CONTROLS THE FIRST
TWO-THIRDS OF THE 950 KM ROUTE TO HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO.
IN THE DISTRICTS OF ZAIRE, UIGE AND CUANZE NORTH, EFFECTIVE
POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONTROL RESIDES WITH THE LIBERATION
MOVEMENT DOMINANT IN THE AREA. (IN FNLA-HELD CARMONA, FOR
EXAMPLE, THE PORTUGUESE GARRISON IS UNDER INTENSE FNLA PRESSURE
AND IS OUTGUNNED AND OUTMANNED.) IN THE CENTER AND SOUTH OF ANGOLA
THEREIS STILL A SEMBLANCE OF PORTUGUESE SOVEREIGNTY IN THE
MAJOR TOWNS AND ALONG THE KEY ROADS BUT IN RURAL DISTRICTS
REAL POWER IS WITH THE LIBERATION ARMIES. ONE DEMONSTRABLE
REASON FOR THE PORTUGUESE ARMY'S WEAKENED POSTURE IS THAT IT
HAS UNILATERALLY DISARMED ITSELF IN MOST OF ANGOLA. WE HAVE SEEN
HIGH, RUSTING PILES OF ARTILLERY AT DEPOTS AROUND LUANDA, MANY
UNITS HAVE CRATED UP THEIR HEAVIER WEAPONS LIKE MORTAR AND HEAVY
MACHINE GUNS AND THERE IS NO LONGER A SERIOUS AIR FORCE BASED
OUTSIDE OF LUANDA. WHAT TROOPS THERE ARE LEFT IN THE INTERIOR
ARE LIGHTLY ARMED INFANTRY, RESTRICTED TO ROADS AND WITHOUT
THE HEART TO SLUG IT OUT WITH A LIBERATION FORCE WHO HAS MORTAR
AND ROCKETS AND WHO COMPLETELY DOMINATES THE SURROUNDING AREA,
INCLUDING RETREAT ROUTES.

4. MORE FIGHTING: WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS OF HEAVY FIGHTING
BETWEEN FNLA AND MPLA IN THE EASTERN ANGOLA TOWN OF HENRIQUE
DE CARVALHO. FNLA REPORTELY TRIED TO SEND IN A SUPPLY CONVOY
FROM ZAIRE AND IT WAS ATTACKED BY MPLA. ACCORDING TO ONE
MILITARY REPORT FNLA INFLICTED MANY MORE CASUALTIES THAN IT
TOOK, BUT BOTH FORCES ARE STILL IN THE TOWN.

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5. NEXT BATTLE GROUND: WE HAVE HEARD A RUMOR THAT MPLA WILL
SHORTLY ATTEMPT WIDESCALE MILITARY ATTACKS IN CUANZA SUL
DISTRICT IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISLODGE FNLA AND UNITA. CUANZA
SUL IS ABOUT 150 MILES SOUTHEAST OF LUANDA AND IS
POPULATED BY KIMBUNDUS, MPLA'S ETHNIC GROUP. NEITHER FNLA
NOR UNITA ARE STRONG IN THIS AREA AND IF MPLA REPEATS THE
COORDINATED ATTACKS IT USED IN THE DEMBOS IN LATE MAY IT
SHOULD EASILY SUCCEED IN ASSERTING DOMINANCE OF THE REGION.

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